

Title 15 - Mississippi Department of Health
Part VIII – Office of Health Policy and Planning
Subpart 90 – Planning and Resource Development

Chapter 1 Introduction

100 Legal Authority and Purpose

Section 41-7-171 et seq., Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, as amended, established the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) as the sole and official agency to administer and supervise all health planning responsibilities for the state, including development and publication of the *Mississippi State Health Plan*. The effective dates of the *Fiscal Year 2018 Mississippi State Health Plan, Second Edition* extend from November 10, 2018, through June 30, 2019, or until superseded by a later *Plan*.

The 2018 State Health Plan, Second Edition establishes criteria and standards for health-related activities which require Certificate of Need review in an effort to meet the priority health needs identified by the department. The priority health needs are as follows:

- Disease prevention, health protection, and health promotion;
- Health care for specific populations, such as mothers, babies, the elderly, the indigent, the uninsured, and minorities;
- Implementation of a statewide trauma system;
- Health needs of persons with mental illness, alcohol/drug abuse problems, mental retardation/developmental disabilities, and/or handicap;
- Availability of adequate health manpower throughout the state; and
- Enhance capacity for detention of a response to public health emergencies, including acts of bioterrorism.

Section 41-7-191, Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated, as amended, requires Certificate of Need (CON) approval for the establishment, relocation, or expansion of health care facilities. The statute also requires CON approval for the acquisition or control of major medical equipment and for the change of ownership of defined health care facilities unless the facilities meet specific requirements.

This *Plan* provides the service-specific CON criteria and standards developed and adopted by the MSDH for CON review of health-related activities requiring such review. The *Mississippi Certificate of Need Review Manual* provides additional general CON criteria by which the Department reviews all applications.

101 Outline of the State Health Plan

The *State Health Plan* describes existing services, evaluates the need for additional services in various aspects of health care, and provides Certificate of Need (CON) criteria and standards for each service requiring CON review. These services include: long-term care, including care for the aged and the intellectually disabled; mental health care, including psychiatric, chemical dependency, and long-term residential treatment facilities; perinatal care; acute care, including various types of diagnostic and therapeutic services; ambulatory care, including outpatient services and freestanding ambulatory surgical centers; comprehensive medical rehabilitation; home health services; and end stage renal disease facilities.

The *State Health Plan* includes data provided by the Office of Licensure and Certification via the Applications for Renewal of Hospital License, the Annual Hospital Reports, and the Report on Institutions for the Aged or Infirm. The Office of Licensure and Certification is responsible for the collection of these data through reports submitted by hospitals and healthcare facilities. These data are reported in the *Plan* as it has been provided by the Office of Licensure and Certification for health planning purposes.

The Glossary contains definitions of terms and phrases used in this *Plan*.

102 General Certificate of Need Policies

Mississippi's health planning and health regulatory activities have the following purposes:

- To improve the health of Mississippi residents;
- To increase the accessibility, acceptability, continuity, and quality of health services;
- To prevent unnecessary duplication of health resources; and
- To provide cost containment.

MSDH intends to approve an application for CON if it substantially complies with the projected need and with the applicable criteria and standards presented in this *Plan*, and to disapprove all CON applications which do not substantially comply with the projected need or with applicable criteria and standards presented in this *Plan*.

MSDH intends to disapprove CON applications which fail to confirm that the applicant shall provide a reasonable amount of indigent care or if the applicant's admission policies deny or discourage access to care by indigent patients. Furthermore, MSDH intends to disapprove CON applications if such approval would have a significant adverse effect on the ability of an existing facility or service to provide Medicaid/indigent care. Finally, it is the intent of the Mississippi State Department of Health to strictly adhere to the criteria set forth in the *State Health Plan* and to ensure that any provider desiring to offer healthcare services covered by the Certificate of Need statutes undergoes review and is issued a Certificate of Need prior to offering such services.

The State Health Officer shall determine whether the amount of indigent care provided or proposed to be offered is "reasonable." The Department considers a reasonable amount of indigent care as that which is comparable to the amount of such care offered by other providers of the requested service within the same, or proximate, geographic area.

MSDH may use a variety of statistical methodologies including, but not limited to, market share analysis or patient origin data to determine substantial compliance with projected need and with applicable criteria and standards in this *Plan*.

102.01 Teaching Exception

Section 41-7-187, Mississippi Code Annotated, as amended, authorizes MSDH to develop and implement the CON program. As the Mississippi Supreme Court recognized in *Jackson HMA, LLC, et al. v. Mississippi State Department of Health, et al.*, 98 So.3d 980, 986 (Miss. 2012), through this statute and others the Legislature delegated to MSDH the authority to adopt rules and regulations “to determine when a CON is required.” Therefore, any activity or project at the University of Mississippi Medical Center principally designed to train health professionals and/or further the academic research mission of the institution, shall not require the issuance of a CON, notwithstanding any provision in Section 41-7-171 *et seq.* to the contrary, provided that any person proposing to undertake any such activity that may be subject to the CON program shall file a Determination of Reviewability, as authorized by Section 41-7-205 and the *Mississippi Certificate of Need Review Manual* or other regulations adopted by MSDH, that demonstrates the activity or project:

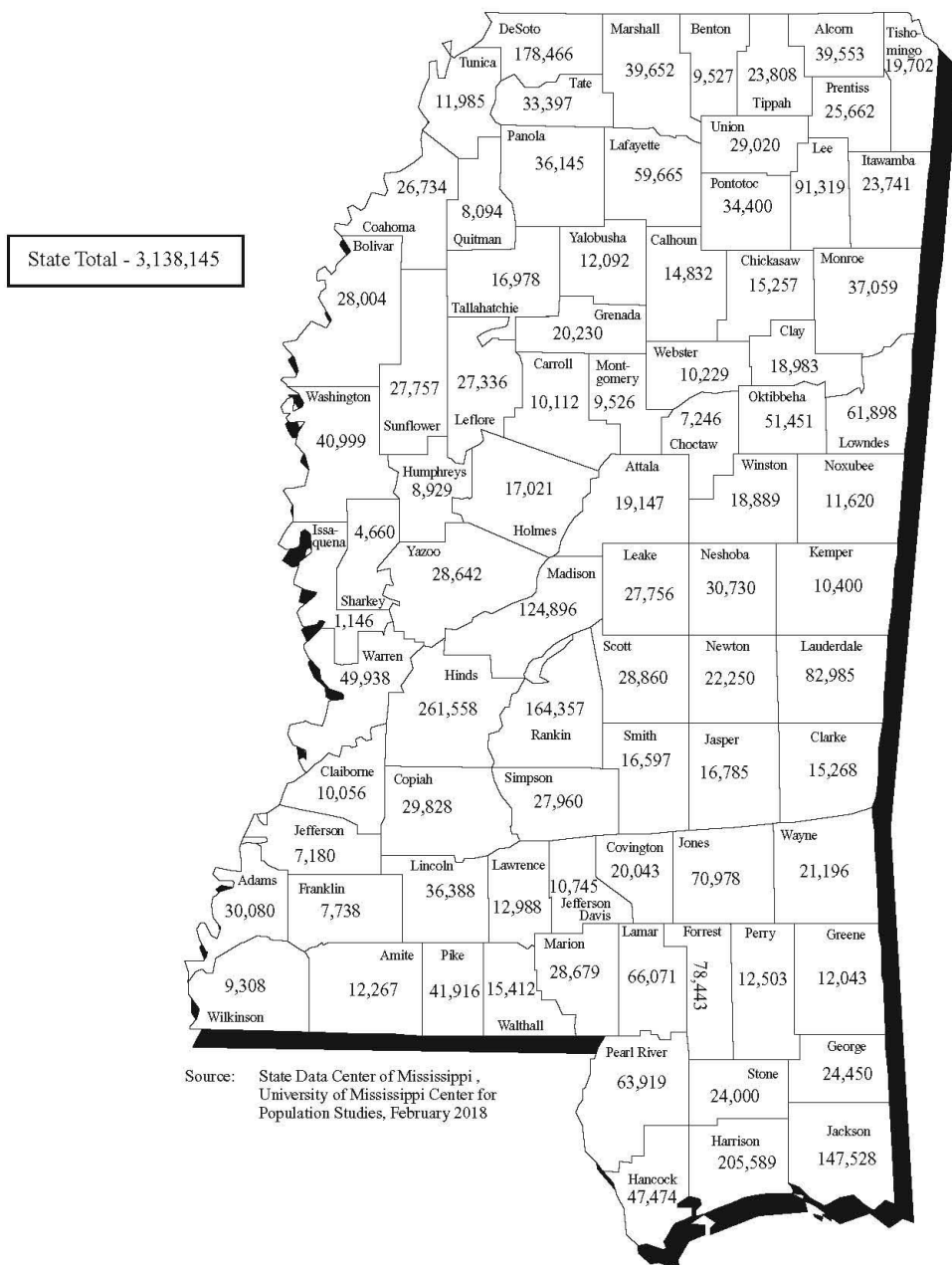
1. is consistent with the teaching and/or academic research mission of the applicant;
2. is undertaken in support of a program(s) accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), or other academic accrediting body, including but not limited to, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC); and
3. addresses one or more priority health need(s) of the *State Health Plan*.

103 Population for Planning

Population projections used in this *Plan* were calculated by the State Data Center of Mississippi, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies, February 13, 2018. This plan is based on 2023 population projections.

Map 1-1 depicts the state's 2023 estimated population by county. Mississippi population projections for the years 2017 and 2023 were obtained from the State Data Center of Mississippi, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies, February 13, 2018.

**Map 1-1
Population Projections
2023**



104 Health Personnel

High quality health care services depend on the availability of competent health personnel in sufficient numbers to meet the population's needs. Mississippi is traditionally a medically underserved state, particularly in sparsely populated rural areas and areas containing large numbers of poor people, elderly people, and minorities. This section discusses some of the areas of greatest need for health care personnel, focusing on physicians, dentists, and nurses.

104.01 Physicians

Mississippi had 5,744 active medical doctors, 407 osteopaths, and 68 podiatrists licensed by the Board of Medical Licensure for FY 2016 (licensing year 2017) for a total of 6,219 active licensed physicians practicing in the state. This number represents an increase of 43 physicians, or more than 0.69 percent, from FY 2015 (licensing year 2016).

Approximately 2,372 (41 percent) of the state's active medical doctors are primary care physicians, representing a ratio of one primary care physician for every 1,323 persons, based on 2023 projected population. The primary care physicians included 754 family practitioners, seventy-five (75) general practitioners, 739 internal medicine physicians, 329 obstetrical and gynecological physicians, and 475 pediatricians. Map 1-2 depicts the total number of primary care medical doctors by county.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Shortage Designation, Mississippi has a total of 116 primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA) designations. Seventy-eight (78) of the designations are single county designations. The United States Department of Health and Human Services defines a primary care HPSA as a geographic area that has a ratio in excess of 3,500 persons per primary care physician and insufficient access to those physicians within a 30 minute traveling radius. Also, areas with 3,000 to 3,500 persons per primary care physician that have unusually high needs for primary care services and have insufficient access to primary care doctors within a 30 minute traveling radius, can also be designated as a primary care HPSA.

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Includes: Family Practice, General Practice, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics

Source: Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
FY 2016, Licensing Year 2017

Active Primary Care
Medical Doctors 2,372

Includes: Family Practice, General Practice, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics

Source: Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure
FY 2016, Licensing Year 2017

104.02 Dentists

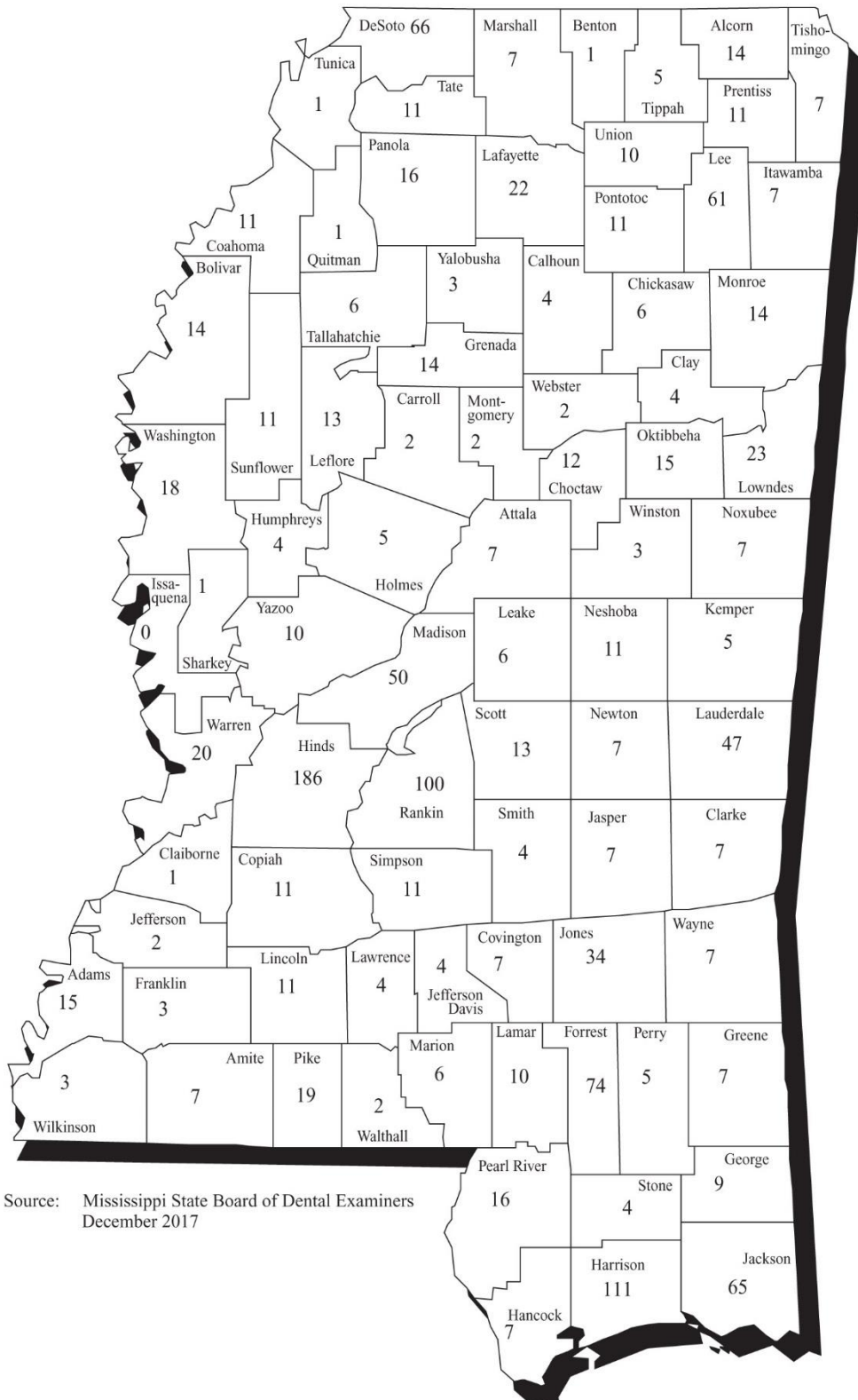
The Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners reported 1,421 licensed (1,380 “active” and 41 “inactive”) dentists in the state as of December 2017, with 103 new dentists licensed during calendar year 2016. Based on Mississippi's 2023 projected population of 3,138,145 the state has one active dentist for every 2,274 persons.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Office of Shortage Designation (HRSA/OSD), Mississippi currently has a total of 110 dental health professional shortage area (HPSA) designations. Seventy-nine of the designations are single county designations.

Mississippi's two major population centers contain the most active dentists. The Jackson area had a total of 336 active dentists in the fall of 2017, with 186 in Hinds County, 100 in Rankin County, and 50 in Madison County. The Gulf Coast region had the second largest count at 183, with 111 in Harrison County, 65 in Jackson County, and 7 in Hancock County. Combined, these two metropolitan areas contained 37.61 percent of the state's total supply of active dentists.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, six counties— Benton, Claiborne, Tate, Tunica, Sharkey, and Quitman—had only one active dentist each and one county— Issaquena—had no active dentist. Map 1-3 depicts the number of dentists per county and indicates the number of in-state, active, licensed dentists who have mailing addresses in the state.

Map 1-3
Active Dentists by County



Source: Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners
December 2017

104.03 Nurses

Registered Nurses

The Mississippi Board of Nursing reported 52,852 registered nurses (RNs) licensed in FY 2017 with (39,897) who worked full or part-time in nursing careers. That included 21,124 in hospitals; 3,928 in community, public, or home health; 2,415 in physicians' offices; 2,233 in nursing homes; and the remainder in other nursing careers. RNs by degree in FY 2017 included, 4,802 diploma, 32,743 associates, 4,823 baccalaureate non-nursing, 23,756 baccalaureate nursing, 1,434 masters non-nursing, 23,756 masters nursing, and 391 doctorate degrees.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) includes any person licensed to practice nursing in Mississippi and certified by the Board of Nursing to practice in an expanded role as an advanced practice registered nurse including nurse midwives and certified registered nurse anesthetists. For FY 2017 there were 6,959 RNs certified as APRNs, with 4,767 family nurse practitioners; 759 certified registered nurse anesthetist; and 506 in adult acute care. The remainder practiced in such specialties as adult and family mental health, gerontology, midwifery, neonatal, pediatric, women's health care and family planning.

Licensed Practical Nurses

The Board of Nursing reported 14,015 licensed practical nurses (LPNs) licensed in FY 2017 with 10,642 who worked full or part-time in nursing careers. That included 4,500 in nursing homes; 1,091 in hospitals; 1,768 in community, public, or home health; and the remainder in other nursing careers. There were 5,238 LPNs certified for an expanded role in FY 2017, including 4,973 in intravenous therapy, 152 in hemodialysis, and 113 in both expanded roles.

104.04 Physical Therapy Practitioners

Physical therapy (PT) practitioners provide preventive, diagnostic, and rehabilitative services to restore function or prevent disability from disease, trauma, injury, loss of a limb, or lack of use of a body part to individuals of all ages.

The Mississippi State Board of Physical Therapy reported 1,987 licensed physical therapists in Mississippi as of November 17, 2017 with 1,717 residing in the state and 1,709 practicing in the state. Nine percent of the Mississippi resident physical therapists practitioners live in Hinds County, eight percent in Harrison County, eight percent in Madison County, and seven percent in Lee County for a total of 32 percent in four counties. The Board also reported 1,274 licensed physical therapist assistants, with 1,120 residing in the state and 1,112 practicing in the state.

104.05 Occupational Therapist

Occupational therapy (OT) is a health and rehabilitation profession that serves people of all ages who are physically, psychologically, or developmentally disabled. Their functions range from diagnosis to treatment, including the design and construction of various special and self-help devices. OTs direct their patients in activities designed to help them learn skills necessary to perform daily tasks, diminish or correct pathology, and promote and maintain health.

MSDH reported 1,134 licensed occupational therapists and 666 licensed occupational therapy assistants on its Mississippi roster as of November 7, 2017, with 980 of the OTs and 597 of the OTAs residing in the state.

104.06 Emergency Medical Personnel

The training of emergency medical personnel includes ambulance operators and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) of both advanced and basic levels. Mississippi requires all ambulance drivers to have EMS driver certification (EMS-D). To qualify, an individual must complete an approved driver training program that involves driving tasks, vehicle dynamics, vehicle preventative maintenance, driver perception, night driving, and information on different driving maneuvers. This training offers both academic and clinical (practical hands on) experiences for the prospective ambulance driver. In FY 2016, Mississippi issued 1,349 EMS driver certifications or recertification.

Additionally, all emergency medical technicians – both advanced level and basic level – must complete a National Highway Safety and Traffic Administration training program for the respective level. This training provides extensive academic and clinical hours for the prospective students. Upon completion, students must pass the National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians test and receive their national certification before applying for the Mississippi certification. For FY 2016, the MSDH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services reported issuing a total of 1,787 EMT certifications or recertifications 1,265 Paramedics and 20 Critical Care Paramedics.

The Legislature authorized the MSDH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) to certify Mississippi's medical first responders beginning July 1, 2004. In fiscal year 2016, BEMS certified 9 medical first responders.